

RILEY (J. B.)

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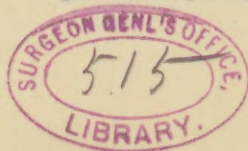
ANTI-KAMNIA AND THE ATMOSPHERIC TRACTOR IN OBSTETRICS.

BY J. B. RILEY M.D., ST. JOSEPH, MO.

Custom has ever allowed woman to bear the pains of the first stage of labor, however severe and prolonged it might be, without an effort to assuage their sharpness, or hasten the process of dilatation; in fact, any assistance offered at this stage was considered meddling midwifery, and condemned by the profession.

"Let nature take its course" has been religiously adhered to, and is responsible for much suffering that could have been relieved.

In a series of our last twenty cases of labor, we have adopted a uniform method of procedure, which has been satisfactory in the highest degree in every case. Our object has been to hasten delivery, beginning with the advent of labor, as well as to control the sharpness and severity of the pains of the first stage. Since the general adoption of chloroform in obstetric practice, the second and third stages have been rendered almost, and generally, entirely painless, but the lancinating pains of dilatation have been patiently endured by the parturient woman. Our method has been to administer a full dose of antikamnia soon as labor was announced by regularity of pains, gradually increasing in frequency and severity, and general relaxation of the generative passage. In a



few minutes, generally in about twenty minutes after administering the quieting dose of antikamnia, we ordered a vaginal douche of warm water, about the temperature of the body, with castile soap, and soon as the first stage was completed, we applied the tractor, and completed labor as soon as possible, using chloroform in those more sensitive patients, in fact, in all who asked for it, or who suffered severely without it. In the twenty cases, there were six primipera, two of whom were aged twenty-nine and thirty-six respectively.

The average duration of labor was two hours and forty minutes, and this from the beginning of the first stage to the completion of the third. We will relate a few of them to show the results in individual cases :

Mrs. M., aged 41 years, fourth confinement. Was called at 4 p. m. Found pains light but regular, os size of a quarter. Gave ten gr. antikamnia, and in twenty minutes used prolonged douche at 100° F. In half an hour dilatation was completed. Applied tractor and completed labor at 5:40.

Mrs. S., aged 26 ; third confinement ; very spare, and delicate constitution. I arrived at 11:20 p. m. ; found first stage completed, and pains very weak and irregular. Applied tractor and by light traction the pains were re-established, and labor completed at 11:55, under chloroform.

Miss W., aged 19 ; stout and fleshy ; called at 1:30 a. m. ; pains regular and severe ; patient denied that she was pregnant and refused any assistance. I called again at 7 a. m., and found her calling for relief. Os size of half dollar during pain. Gave ten grains antikamnia and douche, and at 7:45 the first stage was completed. Applied tractor and delivered without chloroform at 8:30.

Mrs. H., aged 36, primipera, and of a very nervous temperament. Had made up her mind that she would die in confinement. Called at 3:20 a. m. ; pains were short, but sharp and regular. Os admitted index finger. Gave ten grains antikamnia, and used the douche, during which patient fell asleep ; wakened in half hour, and the first stage was nearly completed. Applied tractor and delivered an hour and twenty minutes without chloroform.

Mrs. P., aged 29, primipera, short and fleshy. Lived six miles in country. Arrived at 2:30 ; found first stage completed, and patient nervous and noisy, calling for chloroform, which I gave her, and applied the tractor and delivered in thirty minutes.

Mrs. B., 34 years old, fifth confinement ; called at 8 p. m. Said she had suffered severely all day with "nagging" pains. Os size of nickel. Gave full dose of antikamnia, and called again at 9:20 ; found the first stage nearly completed, and the patient resting comfortably ; said her pains had bothered her very little, and that she had napped some. I applied tractor, and completed labor at 10:30 without chloroform.

Mrs. S., 23 years old, second confinement ; had been in labor twelve hours. I was called in by her physician, who said that he found the first stage completed four hours before, and her pains stopped. He advised a dose of ergot. We suggested the use of the tractor, which he used, and re-established pains immediately by light traction, and completed labor in forty minutes.

In a number of cases the first stage was more prolonged, but the suffering was uniformly controlled by the use of antikamnia. In every case it favored relaxation and an outpouring of secretions which softened and relaxed the perinæum, and by using the tractor delivery of the head was accomplished, in the majority of cases, in the interval of pains, and in but one of the twenty cases was there a perineal rupture, and that one very slight.

In a good per cent. of the cases the dilating pains were almost entirely destroyed and in several I found the first stage nearly completed, and the patient had said that "that dose of medicine stopped my labor." Not every case tended to so rapid a termination, but in none was there hemorrhage or exhaustion.

Antikamnia is prompter and more decided in its action in labor than opium, and has none of the unpleasant after effects. It may be continued in smaller doses to control after pains, and rather favors than interferes with the secretion of milk. The tractor, if not used to hasten delivery, is indispensable in delivering the head during the interval of pains, thus protecting the perinæum.

